



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Leslie LiDonnici Examiner: ---
Serial No.: 10/804,335 Group Art Unit: ---
Filed: March 19, 2004 Dated: June 15, 2004
Title: METHODS AND DEVICES FOR
MINIMIZING THE LOSS OF BLOOD
THROUGH A SEVERED STERNUM
DURING CARDIAC AND/OR THORACIC
SURGERY

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

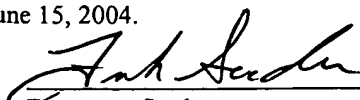
Pursuant to Applicant(s) duty of disclosure, the information listed in the attached form PTO-1449 is brought to the attention of the Examiner. Copies of the listed items are enclosed.

The citation of the listed items is not a representation that they constitute a complete or exhaustive listing of the relevant art or that the references are prior art.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postpaid in an envelope, addressed to the: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on June 15, 2004.

Dated: June 15, 2004



Francesco Sardone

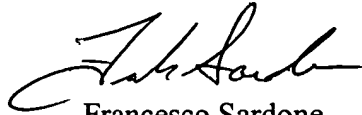
The items listed are submitted in good faith, but are not intended to substitute for the Examiner's search. It is hoped, however, that in addition to apprising the Examiner of these particular items, they will assist in identifying fields of search and in making as full and complete a search as possible.

The filing of this information disclosure statement is not an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

- ☐ This information disclosure statement is being filed within three (3) months of the filing date of this application.
- ☐ This information disclosure statement is being filed within three (3) months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.491 in an international application.
- ☒ To the best of Applicant(s) knowledge, this information disclosure statement is being filed before the date of mailing of a first Office Action on the merits in connection with this case.
- ☐ Enclosed by check is the \$180.00 fee required by 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p).
- ☐ Please charge the \$180.00 fee required by 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 50-2140.
- ☒ Please charge any deficiency as well as any other fee(s) which may become due under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 and/or §1.17 at any time during the pendency of this application, or credit any overpayment of such fee(s) to Deposit Account 50-2140. Also, in the event any extensions of time for responding and/or a petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i)(i) are required for the pending application(s), please treat this paper as a petition to extend the time and/or enter this Information Disclosure Statement as required and charge Deposit Account No. 50-2140 therefor. TWO (2) COPIES OF THIS SHEET ARE ENCLOSED.

The claims of the application as now presented are believed to patentably distinguish over the prior art and to be in condition for allowance. Early and favorable consideration of the case is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

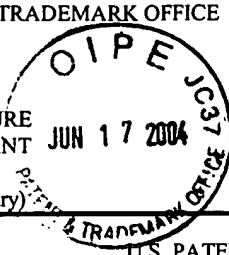
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Sardone', written in a cursive style.

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FS:mpl

Form PTO-1449		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTY. DOCKET NO. 1363-3		SERIAL NO. 10/804,335	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)				APPLICANTS Leslie LiDonnici			
				FILING DATE March 19, 2004		GROUP ART UNIT	



U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
		4,813,416	3/21/1989	Pollak et al.			
		5,823,946	10/20/1998	Chin			
		6,033,425	3/7/2000	Looney et al.			
		6,217,580	4/17/2001	Levin			
		6,273,853	8/14/2001	Cartier et al.			
		6,358,270	3/19/2002	Lemer			
		6,368,342	4/9/2002	Lemer			
		6,540,769	4/1/2003	Miller, III			
		2002/0120177	8/29/2002	Borst et al.			
		2003/0153947	8/14/2003	Koseki			
		2004/0010256	1/15/2004	Gabbay			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO

OTHER PRIOR ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)			
			Copy of Literature entitled "Sternal Retractors and Rib Spreaders", pages 1.

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

(Form PTO-1449 [6-4])